IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information device, comprising:

means for storing an encrypted content that identifies ~~whose use requires a~~ license identification information;

means for receiving grouped device identification information and key information, for transmitting the grouped device identification information and the license identification information, and for receiving a license corresponding to the license identification information and identifying the grouped device identification information, the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices;

means for storing the license, ~~the license including grouped device identification information for grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the information device, the plurality of information devices being authorized to decrypt the encrypted content~~;

means for storing user data including (a) the grouped device identification information[[,]] and (b) the key information, which is commonly provided to ~~a device group that includes~~ the plurality of information devices, ~~and (c) a group identifier provided to the device group,~~ wherein the means for storing the user data stores the grouped device identification information and the key information in an association together ~~with the group identifier~~; and

means for reading out the license identification information from the encrypted content, for reading out the grouped device identification information from the license corresponding to the license identification information, for reading out the key information from the user data based on the grouped device identification information, and for decrypting the encrypted content[[,]] based on the key information.

2. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the means for storing the encrypted content associates license identification information for identifying the license to the encrypted content,~~ the license ~~including~~ includes the license identification information and the grouped device identification information.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for requesting an information server to register the <u>information</u> device ~~group~~ in the information server.

5. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for requesting the information server to register the information device, and to submit the grouped device identification information and the key information to the information device.

6. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for storing unique device identification information for identifying the information device from ~~other~~ <u>others of the plurality of</u> information devices ~~structurally similar to the information device~~; and

means for requesting the information server to register in the information server the unique device identification information.

7. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for producing the unique device identification information.

8. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for requesting the information server to delete from the information server the unique device identification information.

9. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein the ~~device group includes a~~ plurality of information devices is owned by one user.

10. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein,

the key information corresponds to a device node key allocated to the <u>plurality of information devices, the device node key being</u> ~~device group, which is~~ a node in a bottom layer among a plurality of node keys in a hierarchical tree structure, wherein each of the <u>plurality of</u> node keys is encrypted and corresponds to a different node in the hierarchical tree structure, which branches off from a top layer to the bottom layer,

the encrypted content is multiply encrypted by each of the <u>plurality of</u> node keys on a path in the hierarchical tree structure from the device node key to a root key, the root key being <u>one of the plurality of node keys</u> ~~a node key~~ in the top layer of the hierarchical tree structure, and

the means for reading out sequentially decrypts each of the plurality of node keys on

the path from the device node key ~~bottom layer~~ to the ~~top layer~~ root key in the hierarchical

tree structure, using the key information as the device node key to obtain the root key, and

then decrypts the encrypted content by using the ~~obtained~~ root key.

11. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 10, wherein,

the encrypted content is encrypted by a content key that is encrypted by the root key,

and

the means for reading out decrypts the content key by using the root key, and then

decrypts the encrypted content using the ~~decrypted~~ content key.

12. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 1, wherein the

encrypted content includes at least one of text data, still image data, moving image data, or

voice data.

13. (Currently Amended) An information server, comprising:

means for registering one of a plurality of information devices according to a service

registration request from the one of the plurality of information devices, for associating

grouped device identification information and key information with the plurality of

information devices ~~to a group identifier, for registering the grouped device identification~~

~~information and the key information,~~ and for providing the grouped device identification

information and the key information to ~~all information devices in a device group including~~

the one of the plurality of information devices, the grouped device identification information

grouping and identifying the plurality of information devices, the key information being

associated with an encrypted content; and

means for receiving a license request from the one of the <u>plurality of</u> information devices <u>and for transmitting a license to the one of the plurality of information devices</u>, the license request including the grouped device identification information <u>and license identification information associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to the license, the license identifying the grouped device identification information and being associated with the encrypted content</u>; and means for determining whether to charge for providing a license from the information server, based on whether the grouped device identification information is registered by the means for registering.

14. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for extracting device identification information that identifies the one of the <u>plurality of</u> information devices from a device registration request from the one of the <u>plurality of</u> information devices, for associating the device identification information with the <u>grouped device identification information</u> group identifier, and for registering the device identification information according to the device registration request.

15. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 14, wherein the means for extracting refuses a device registration request from a new <u>an</u> information device belonging to the device group, after a number of [[the]] information devices in the <u>plurality of information devices</u> device group reaches a predetermined number.

16. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 14, wherein the means for extracting deletes the device identification information, which is specified by a device registration deletion request from the one of the <u>plurality of</u> information devices.

17. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

~~means for providing the license specified by the license request to the one of the~~ ~~information devices according to the license request; and~~

means for extracting the grouped device identification information from the license request, and for determining whether to charge for ~~providing~~ transmitting the license from the ~~means for providing~~ information server, based on whether the ~~extracted~~ grouped device identification information [[is]] has been registered by the ~~means for registering~~ information server.

18. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 13, wherein the ~~device group includes a~~ plurality of information devices is owned by one user.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:

an information server; and

an information device configured to receive a service from the information server through communication lines, wherein,

the information server includes,

means for registering the information device according to a service registration request from the information device, for associating grouped device identification information and key information with the information device ~~to a group identifier, for~~ ~~registering the grouped device identification information and the key information~~, and for providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to ~~all~~ ~~information devices in a device group~~ the information device, the grouped device

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identification information grouping and identifying a plurality of [[the]] information devices

including the information device, the key information being associated with an encrypted

content, and

means for receiving a license request from the information device and for

transmitting a license to the information device, the license request including the grouped

device identification information and license identification information associated with the

encrypted content and corresponding to the license, the license identifying the grouped device

identification information and being associated with the encrypted content, and

the information device includes,

means for storing the encrypted content;

means for storing [[a]] the license, the license including the grouped device

identification information;

means for storing user data that includes the grouped device identification

information and the key information, which are provided from the information server, and the

group identifier, the means for storing the user data storing the grouped device identification

information and the key information together with the group identifier; and

means for reading out the license identification information from the

encrypted content, for reading out the grouped device identification information from the

license corresponding to the license identification information, for reading out the key

information from the user data based on the grouped device identification information, and

for decrypting the encrypted content[[,]] based on the key information.

20. (Currently Amended) An information processing method implemented by a

decryption apparatus, comprising:

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storing an encrypted content that identifies license identification information and a

license in an information device;

receiving grouped device identification information and key information, the license

including the grouped device identification information that groups and identifies grouping

and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the decryption apparatus

information device, the information devices being authorized to decrypt the encrypted

content;

transmitting the grouped device identification information and the license

identification information;

receiving a license that corresponds to the license identification information and that

identifies the grouped device identification information;

storing user data including (a) the grouped device identification information[[,]] and

(b) the key information, which is commonly provided to a device group that includes the

plurality of information devices, and (c) a group identifier provided to the device group,

wherein the grouped device identification information and the key information are stored in

an association together with the group identifier;

reading out, with a processor of the information device decryption apparatus, the

license identification information from the encrypted content;

reading out, with the processor, the grouped device identification information from

the license corresponding to the license identification information;

reading out, with the processor, the key information from the user data based on the

grouped device identification information; and

decrypting the encrypted content with the processor, based on the key information.

21-22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) An information device, comprising:

a first memory configured to store an encrypted content ~~whose use requires a~~ that identifies license identification information;

an interface configured to receive grouped device identification information and key information, to transmit the grouped device identification information and the license identification information, and to receive a license corresponding to the license identification information and identifying the grouped device identification information, the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices;

a second memory configured to store the license, ~~the license including grouped device identification information for grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the information device, the plurality of information devices being authorized to decrypt the encrypted content~~;

a third memory configured to store ~~user data including~~ (a) the grouped device identification information[[,]] and (b) the key information, which is commonly provided to a ~~device group that includes~~ the plurality of information devices, ~~and (c) a group identifier provided to the device group,~~ wherein the third memory is further configured to store the grouped device identification information and the key information in an association together ~~with the group identifier~~; and

a processor configured to read out the license identification information from the encrypted content, read out the grouped device identification information from the license, read out the key information ~~from the user data~~ based on the grouped device identification information, and decrypt the encrypted content based on the key information.

24. (Currently Amended) An information server, comprising:

a processor configured to register one of a plurality of information devices according

to a service registration request from the one of the <u>plurality of</u> information devices, to

associate grouped device identification information and key information <u>with the plurality of</u>

<u>information devices</u> ~~to a group identifier, to register the grouped device identification~~

~~information and the key information~~, and to provide the grouped device identification

information and the key information to ~~all information devices in a device group including~~

<u>the one of</u> the plurality of information devices, the grouped device identification information

grouping and identifying the plurality of information devices, the key information <u>being</u>

associated with an encrypted content; <u>and</u>

an interface configured to receive a license request from the one of the <u>plurality of</u>

information devices <u>and to transmit a license to the one of the plurality of information</u>

<u>devices</u>, the license request including the grouped device identification information <u>and</u>

<u>license information associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to the license,</u>

<u>the license identifying the grouped device identification information and being associated</u>

<u>with the encrypted content</u>~~; and~~

~~a CPU configured to determine whether to charge for providing a license from the~~

~~information server, based on whether the grouped device identification information is~~

~~registered by the processor.~~

25. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information

server, the method comprising:

registering one of a plurality of information devices according to a service registration

request from the one of the <u>plurality of</u> information devices;

associating<u>, with the information server,</u> ~~a group identifier with~~ grouped device

identification information and key information <u>with the plurality of information devices</u>, the

grouped device identification information grouping and identifying the plurality of

information devices, the key information associated with an encrypted content;

~~registering the grouped device identification information and the key information;~~

providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to ~~all~~

~~information devices in a device group including~~ the one of the plurality of information

devices;

receiving a license request from the one of the <u>plurality of</u> information devices, the

license request including the grouped device identification information <u>and license</u>

<u>identification information associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to a</u>

<u>license;</u> <u>and</u>

<u>transmitting the license to the one of the plurality of information devices, the license</u>

<u>identifying the grouped device identification information and being associated with the</u>

<u>encrypted content</u> ~~and determining, with a processor, whether to charge for providing a~~

~~license from the information server, based on whether the grouped device identification~~

~~information is registered~~.